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## ECONOMY IN NATURE

BY P. A. RYDBERG

Rising "on stepping stones  
Of their dead selves to higher things."

On Faitoute Avenue in New Orange, New Jersey, used to stand an old cherry tree, seven or eight feet in circumference. About seven feet from the ground it divided into two trunks. Just at the junction of the two there was a big hole, indicating that the tree was decayed and hollow. Nothing of peculiar interest about this tree was revealed, however, until the severe storm came in the spring of 1899, when one of the two trunks was torn down. The hollow trunk contained several bushels of cherry-pits and mulch, produced by decayed cherries and leaves. An adventitious root had sprung from the margin of the hole, ramified in this mass of decayed matter, and grown to the size of the thickness of one's wrist. Not satisfied, however, to feed only on old cherries and leaves, it had sent numerous branches into the decayed portion of the trunk, and the tree was actually feeding on itself, like the old wolf which, according to the fable, was eating its own frozen legs.

## REVIEW

A "Flora of Vermont,\* a list of the fern and seed-plants growing without cultivation," prepared by President Ezra Brainerd, Professor L. R. Jones and Mr. W. W. Eggleston, a committee of the Vermont Botanical Club, was issued in December, 1900. This list represents much careful and painstaking work on the part of the authors and their associates, involving a thorough-going revision of previously published lists of Vermont plants. The spirit in which the work has been conceived is revealed in the following words from the preface: "In every case where a name is admitted to the main list, there is an authenticated specimen deposited in one or more of the permanent herbaria of the state, or

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\* Brainerd, Jones and Eggleston. *Flora of Vermont, a list of fern- and seed-plants growing without cultivation.* 8vo. Pp. i-xii; 1-113. Burlington, 15 D. 1900. [Extracted from Twentieth Vermont Agricultural Report.]